

SHIPPING

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Observer, Saturday, 10 November 30.
 Average annual rainfall for 30 years, 49.66 in.
 For 40 years, 50.75 in. For 50 years, 51.89 in.
 Rainfall from January 1, 1880, to December 31, 1939, 14 in.
 Standard barometer at 5 a.m. to-day, 30.120 in.
 Sunday, 3 p.m., 30.155
 Sunday, 5 p.m., 30.140
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The truth of this saying has never been more fully exemplified than in the case of

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LETTER BOX, 569 GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY.

The Sydney Morning Herald.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1894.

The London press strongly supports the appeal of Mr. M. Hamaker Weston, M.P., to the Australasian Premiers to fall in line with Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand, Cape Colony, Natal, and Ceylon and concede Imperial penny postage.

In the Cape Colony Legislative Assembly on Friday the bill to provide for a contribution by the Cape of £50,000 towards the United Empire was passed in record reading by a unanimous vote.

In moving the second reading the Premier, in a speech of a most patriotic character, said he preferred that the colony should make an unconditional and direct contribution, rather than follow the lead of the Australian colonies.

The Imperial Parliament has been summoned to meet on the 7th of February.

It is reported that the outbreak of plague in Madagascar is spreading rapidly.

The jubilee of the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary, for which preparations on a magnificent scale had been made, has been celebrated quietly and sympathetically, owing to the recent assassination of the Emperor.

About £250,000 have been subscribed towards the charities as a memorial in commemoration of the jubilee.

Admiral Dewar expects trouble with the natives before the Philippines. Consequently three United States men-of-war have been despatched to Manila, and the American troops there are being strengthened. The hostility towards the United States Government, a Republican Government has been constituted by the rebels, of which Aguinaldo has been made President. He states that he has 10,000 native troops at his disposal.

The Minister at Washington has applied to the United States Government not to exclude Chinese immigrants from the Philippines.

The party organised to search for Herr Andree, who left in a balloon for the North Pole, was wrecked, and the members of it were 17 days on an island 130 miles distant from Olenok, Siberia.

On the Persian frontier the Russian troops have been reinforced by 11,000 men.

M. de Freycinet states that it would be a mistake for France if portions of the Biveres mentioned mentioning certain names were revoked. He has, therefore, demanded secrecy of the Court of Cassation. M. Guyot confirms the statement of the Minister, but adds that the Government does not desire to contain nothing that would implicate Dreyfus.

The "Mad Mullah," who recently caused a violent insurrection at the Swazi River on the north-west frontier of India, has been checked, and is retreating.

Thirty-seven lives have been lost by the foundering of the ship Can Drummond, which straggled between Liverpool and Trellick afloat.

An Anti-Australian Conference has abandoned the proposal dealing with the extradition of anarchists.

Grants of £10,000 to the authorities of the Island of Barbados, and of £25,000 to the Island of Mauritius, of the Ashburton shipwreck, have been made by the Imperial Government in consideration of the disasters caused by the recent hurricanes.

The fund for the "German College" at Kharagpur has increased to £15,000. An American sub-committee is co-operating in the raising of the money.

Early on Saturday evening an outbreak of fire occurred in the wharf district near the wharf of Moore's Wharf, Miller's Point. The fire was extinguished, but not until the forecave was pretty well burned out.

An afternoon sport was held on Saturday on the grounds of the Ashbury Sanatorium, under the auspices of the Auburn and Brookwood Hospital Demonstration Committee.

Cardinal Moran on Saturday opened a fancy fair at the Handwick Theatre Royal, in aid of the orphanage and school of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

The ship Orpheus, which recently arrived at Newcastle with a case of smallpox, is to be quarantined at the Ashbury Sanatorium, where the crew and passengers will be treated.

This year's yield of the grain crop in the South Island of New Zealand will be about the same.

On Saturday afternoon the foundation and ceremonial stones of the new building in Roderick or the Sydney City Mission were laid, the ceremony being led by Viscountess Dunlop.

A telegram received in Brisbane yesterday from the manager of Felton Station, Darling Downs, states that Mr. James Joyce, the well-known grazier, had died at Cambooya on the previous day.

Evidences will be found the results of the fifth annual examinations in connection with the Sydney College of Music on Saturday the 18th.

The championship of the Johnston's Bay Sailing Club was won by Australian (Carric Webb), Thalia (F. Doran) being second. The Port Jackson Yacht Club 10th annual regatta was won by the "Gull" (O'Donnell). The Sydney Dingy Club's regatta championship was carried off by Cyclone (H. Hancock).

Mr. George Hedger, one of the oldest residents of the district, died at Gooderough Rivers district, died at Dubbo on Saturday. He was upwards of 80 years of age.

The Handwick Bowling Green was formally reopened on Saturday night last, when Mr. J. L. McCulloch, the president of the club, performing the ceremony.

At the London wool sales on Saturday competition was submitted. Merinos were firm, and good quality were much in demand.

At the sales on Saturday there was a good selection of fleeces. The Continent took the bulk of those sold. Merinos and crossbreeds showed a decline.

Business in the markets was generally quiet on Saturday, but there was rather more life in the Mining market, specially for Western Australian gold companies.

At Darling Harbour on Saturday 3000 bales of wool were offered.

Saturday's Customs revenue amounted to £220,228.

In the electric cricket competitions on Saturday, the following scores were obtained:

Trumper, playing for Paddington, scored 27 runs not out. Trumper, playing for the same club, compiled 113.

At Melbourne on Saturday the heats for the 100 yards race were won by John Stimpson. At Sydney, it is one of these left in the final. The

AN IDEAL BEVERAGE.

International Soccer Race, of one mile, was won by W. McDougal, and the first half-mile International Soccer Race by A. C. Forbes.

It is stated by the Premier that one of the bills to be proceeded with this session is Mr. Carruthers' Government Advances Bill. This is a bill which was introduced to Parliament at the beginning of last session while its progress has been slow, that perhaps it is no bad thing, because the community is able to discuss its provisions and afford Parliament some indication of how they will be received by those on whose behalf the Minister is about legislating. The bill appoints a board of three to be nominated by the Governor and salaried, who shall have power to make advances on first mortgage of freeholds, conditional purchases or conditional leases, homestead selections, and settlement leases. The money on loan is to be repaid by the mortgagor or lessee by the Government by debenture or insured stock. No loan is to be for less than £25 or more than £2000. In the case of freeholds the advance is not to be more than the value of permanent improvements, or two-thirds the value of improvements to be made. In the case of land the market value of land plus improvements. In the case of land in process of alienation or under lease from the State, the amount to be advanced is to be no more than one-half the applicant's interest in such sum. The advances in question shall be for the purpose of permanent improvements on the security. The security must be free from all encumbrances, liens, or interests, except such as the Government may possess. In regard to advances having pecuniary nature, the Government or in process of alienation, the grant of an advance is expressly conditional upon the fulfilment of "all covenants and conditions contained or implied in the Crown Lands Acts." The term of the advance is not more than ten years, the rate of interest, not more than 5 per cent. Mortgages of Crown lands are not at liberty to surrender their holdings, or to convert them, without permission of the board.

It will be seen from this brief recapitulation that the extent of pecuniary aid which may be granted to the small settlers is severely limited. In the first place, no man can get any money out of the board unless his land is absolutely unencumbered. The terms of the 9th clause require express "When a conditional purchase is made, the conditional purchaser alone to the State in the form of arrears now amounts to twelve and a half millions sterling, that all classes of Crown tenants agitate for and ultimately gain the right to raise money on their security, the Government goes further, the fact that immense areas of land once occupied by small settlers have passed for ever into the hands of mortgages, we shall be under no misapprehension about the scope of the bill. The amount of money which the board can advance in capital is not to exceed £1 million and a half. It is to be doubted whether the board can find in the purely country lands of New South Wales classified as open to advances under the bill a sufficient uncumbered area of land. The bill contains that limitation number one. The second is the proviso in the 21st clause that every advance is to be for permanent improvement on the security. That clause rules out every application of the money except for fencing, building, and the purposes of the Government board will regard as permanent. The money cannot be applied to clear off arrears, or debts, or any obligations of that kind. The third limitation is that of amount. We may leave out of consideration the limitation of £1 million, not for them, and they can get better terms, easier and cheaper money, without circumlocution and Government meddling from the financial institutions on their unnumbered freeholds. The Crown lessee or conditional purchaser, however, whose interest in such land. How is that interest defined? The board will have to say what his interest in his land amounts to, but on any reasonable method of arriving at it, seeing that the Government is bound to give temporary lease and in others a conditional purchase the conditions of which are as yet unfilled, the market value of the applicant is a peculiarly hard matter to settle. Bearing in mind these stipulations, it is hardly surprising that few persons who can comply with them are few, and that the assistance to be derived is uncertain in amount, limited in purpose, and troublesome to get.

Indeed, it is not too much to say that the bill will be a disappointment to nearly all who expect so much from promises in this direction. We have shown how the provisions of the bill when separated from verbiage amount to a stone instead of bread. In fact, hardly any solvent man would bother to apply for money under the terms of this bill; and the embarrassed man is in so many ways excluded from the benefit, if any. But there is a class which can, and probably will, hasten to take advantage of the Advances to Settlers Bill should that bill prove successful enough to receive approval. That class will comprise all Mr. Carruthers' new settlers. The men who have taken up land under the new tenures of the Land Act of 1895 will be few. They can hardly have enumerated their holdings, let alone heavy taxes, and if they happen to conditionally approach the Government with everything in their favour—in residence, conditions fulfilled, holders of unnumbered land, and still entitled to the full advantage of the bill. While the bill can hardly be expected to do any great good, it is not worth mention, profit any man of the many who have been demanding some credit facilities or other Government help from their Crown landlord, it may benefit scores of the new settlers. To that extent it may be useful, but it is not likely to be popularised the rush for land under the recent forms of occupation. That, we submit, is not the thing which the sorely embarrassed holders of small areas of Crown lands have been clamouring for.

The death of Mr. James Tyson removes one of Australia's most prominent settlers. To the general public the name is known as that of one of our quacking kings, who has been most successful in acquiring wealth from the breast areas which he added from decade to decade to his estate. Beginning life as a poor man, he brought to the pursuit of his business an untiring industry and native sagacity, which were aided by such unbounded resources as the continent afforded. In this he was generally of confidence as he had in himself as their exploiter, and he could be very severe on any who doubted them. Beginning life with nothing, he developed qualities which, while contributive to his wealth, were not generally regarded as eccentricities, though he might be so inasmuch as they commonly do in such cases, to the close of life. He was the determined enemy of everything in the shape of luxurious living or extravagance in the mode of acquiring wealth, and he did not contribute to the acquisition of material wealth. And he traced the bulk of the failures of those engaged in his own line of business to the neglect of the simplicity of life which was so marked a feature in his own career. Mr. James Tyson was surrounded by other qualities of a different character. He was not destitute of sympathy for deserving objects, and under the advice of those in whom he trusted, and where he was sure that his benevolence would be appreciated, he contributed large sums to charity or public objects to which he took an interest. Altogether Mr. Tyson was a remarkable man—made so to some extent by the isolation of his life and the absence of those familiar associations which modify peculiarities. He has done his own work in opening up and developing large tracts of country, from which a vast mass of wealth has been acquired, and distributed and redistributed almost entirely in employment to colonists or in public return to the Government.

It is to be hoped that, notwithstanding the eagerness of Ministers and private members to legislate during the remaining days of the present session, time will be found for the little bill promised for the ventilation of the Upper House. This is a bill to declare the principles upon which the value of improvements to the incoming tenant shall be ascertained. Mr. Moore, member for Pingara, the other day moved for the enactment of the bill, and the member ventilated his grievance, and he certainly made out a case. Taking an instance in the Gundah district, he showed how Mr. Sampson, a successful applicant for a settlement lease, had been dealt with. A farm was valued when the settlement lease was made, and the improvements were roughly valued at £108, consisting of ringbarking. When the Land Board came to determine the value it was raised to £191. Then was an appeal made by Mr. Sampson to the Minister, and the Minister, on the only injury by it, for the Land Court raised the value to no less than £717. A case was next prepared for the Supreme Court by the Land Appeal Court, but being seen to be unarguable the applicant abandoned the case. The Minister then made a just value of improvements was met by a bill prepared by the Lands Minister last year and lost in the Upper House. It would have been dealt with in the recent Land Bill, which, however, was not passed. The bill would have many men who hold settlement leases or homestead selections on which there are improvements erected by former holders. It is necessary to settle the basis of value. That would have been done by the bill. The bill would have been passed in 1898, which provided that the value of improvements—(a) shall be their value at the date of commencement of title of the incoming tenant; and (b) shall be their value to such tenant; and (c) shall not include any value of improvements in the hands of the outgoing tenant; and (d) shall in no such case exceed the original cost of making the improvements. That would settle the very much disputed law on this important point.

As the unravelling of the Dryfus case goes on we become more and more aware of the desperate network of complications in which that hapless victim of military officialism was immersed. At every stage the leaden pace of justice is retarded by the real or fancied danger to the State. The fact that the case is in the hands of the Court of Cassation has already begun its work, it is easy to understand how difficult the task of the Dryfus sympathisers was while it was possible to meet every attempt to delay the case by the final word of "chose jugée." Each successive Ministry appears to be confronted by the same difficulty, so that the importance of the question as regards the guilt or innocence of Dryfus, respecting the publication of the case, is in danger of being made up its mind, in the light of graver issues. It is now M. de Freycinet who declares that the revelation of the names occurring in the case would be an injury to the country's interests, and the statement is confirmed by M. Yves Guyot, a well-known literary man and deputy, and a Dryfus sympathiser. We can only infer, from the course, the nature of the danger which he indicates, that he is not without some doubt that it refers to the spy system which Continental nations find it necessary to employ with a view to acquainting themselves with each other's movements. Quite recently the Government have been apprehensive of looking into this secret chamber of State secrets, when the sudden and mysterious resignation of President Casimir-Perier was explained. So far as the Dryfus case is concerned, it would appear that this official attitude of the Government, the atmosphere of suspicion and distrust in which his duties were discharged. Latest of all up to date comes the rumour seeking to explain the strenuous resistance to publicity on the part of the French Government, and the consequent delay in the bill, by the enormous expenditure of secret service money. One result of the proceedings up to the present stage has been the passing by the French Senate of a bill to prevent the repetition of similar cases. The bill provides that in the future it will be an open question whether the Dryfus and secret information system or this Dryfus mystery is the greater national scandal.

Our cables this morning seem to indicate that the country claims to be the Philippines need not altogether depend on the con-

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SPECIAL CABLES.

FROM THE "HERALD'S" LONDON CORRESPONDENTS.

CAPE COLONY.

THE NAVAL CONTRIBUTION.

PATRIOTIC SPEECH BY THE PREMIER.

UNANIMOUS SECOND READING.

LONDON, Dec. 3.

In the Cape Colony Legislative Assembly last night Mr. W. P. Schreiner, the Premier, moved the second reading of the bill to provide for a contribution by the Cape of £30,000 annually to the Imperial Navy.

The speech he made on the occasion was of a most patriotic character. He said that he preferred that the colony should make an unconditional and direct contribution to the Imperial navy rather than follow the lead of the Australian colonies and make it a condition that the money should be directed towards the support of the local squadron. He proposed the course he proposed because it was the only one which would ensure that the Cape Colony would be able to contribute towards the Imperial navy.

The bill was read the second time unanimously.

THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, Dec. 3.

The Imperial Parliament has been summoned to meet on February 7.

CUBA.

LONDON, Dec. 3.

The Jubilee of the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary, for which preparations had been made on a magnificent scale, has been celebrated quietly but sympathetically owing to the recent assassination of the Emperor.

Thirty million florins (about £2,500,000) have been subscribed towards the charities as a memorial of the jubilee.

MOROCCO.

LONDON, Dec. 3.

At a meeting of the Imperial Committee, held at the Colonial Office, it was decided that the Imperial Government should send a mission to Morocco to investigate the claims of the British subjects who have been expelled from the country.

The mission will be composed of Mr. R. A. Alger, the American Secretary for War, and Mr. J. H. Chamberlain, the British Secretary for War.

The mission will leave for Morocco on the 10th inst.

FEUD OF FRONTIER TRIBES.

LONDON, Dec. 3.

The Beni Gila and the Beni Djid, nomad tribes on the frontier of Morocco, are at present at war.

The Beni Gila have been expelled from their country by the Beni Djid.

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THE DREYFUS CASE.

THE INCRIMINATING DOSSIER.

SECRET DEMAND OF THE COURT.

LONDON, Dec. 2.

M. de Freycinet, the Minister for War in the French Government, states that it would be a danger to the State if portions of the Dreyfus dossier mentioning certain names were revealed. He has therefore demanded secrecy of the Court of Cassation.

M. Yves Guyot, a member of the Chamber of Deputies, who is in favour of the revision of the sentence passed upon Captain Dreyfus, confirms the statement of the Minister, but adds that the portions of the dossier referred to contain nothing that would implicate Dreyfus.

POWERS OF THE COURT OF CASSATION.

LONDON, Dec. 4.

The Court of Cassation is powerless to compel the military authorities to postpone the holding of the court-martial of Lieutenant-Colonel Piquart, who is charged with forging the "petit bleu" and showing military documents to his lawyer.

It is stated that the Court of Cassation will be unable to enforce its decisions if they are opposed to the wishes of the Government.

An impression prevails that the generals of the army are fighting in order to prevent divulgence of the manner in which the immense secret service funds of the Government are used.

JUBILEE OF THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA.

LONDON, Dec. 3.

The Jubilee of the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary, for which preparations had been made on a magnificent scale, has been celebrated quietly but sympathetically owing to the recent assassination of the Emperor.

Thirty million florins (about £2,500,000) have been subscribed towards the charities as a memorial of the jubilee.

MOROCCO.

LONDON, Dec. 3.

At a meeting of the Imperial Committee, held at the Colonial Office, it was decided that the Imperial Government should send a mission to Morocco to investigate the claims of the British subjects who have been expelled from the country.

The mission will be composed of Mr. R. A. Alger, the American Secretary for War, and Mr. J. H. Chamberlain, the British Secretary for War.

The mission will leave for Morocco on the 10th inst.

FEUD OF FRONTIER TRIBES.

LONDON, Dec. 3.

The Beni Gila and the Beni Djid, nomad tribes on the frontier of Morocco, are at present at war.

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THE PHILIPPINES.

TROUBLE WITH THE NATIVE REBELS EXPECTED.

THE AMERICAN FORCES TO BE STRENGTHENED.

LONDON, Dec. 2.

Admiral Dewey expects trouble with the Filipinos or native rebels. Consequently the United States men of war Iowa, Oregon, and Helena have been despatched to Manila, and the American troops there are being strengthened.

Mr. R. A. Alger, the United States Secretary for War, intends to enrol natives of the Philippines as soldiers for the Archipelago.

A REPUBLIC PROCLAIMED.

LONDON, Dec. 3.

The hostility of the Filipinos towards the United States is increasing.

A republican Government has been constituted by the rebels, and it has recognised Aguinaldo, who was leader of the insurgents against Spanish rule before the war with the United States, as President.

Aguinaldo states that he has 40,000 native troops at Panay, one of the Visaya sub-groups.

CHINESE IMMIGRANTS.

LONDON, Dec. 3.

The Chinese Minister at Washington, Wou Ting Fang, has appealed to the United States Government not to exclude Chinese immigrants from the Philippines.

VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, Sunday.

At a meeting of the Victorian Government, held at the Colonial Office, it was decided that the Imperial Government should send a mission to Morocco to investigate the claims of the British subjects who have been expelled from the country.

The mission will be composed of Mr. R. A. Alger, the American Secretary for War, and Mr. J. H. Chamberlain, the British Secretary for War.

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